

still does not pass muster.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Scofield, on the committee amendments to LB 182.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Senator Labeledz and members. I rise to support the committee amendments, recognizing the frustration that Senator Withem and all of us feel with this issue. Senator Withem did an excellent job of giving you the history of this issue, and I don't think he was too pessimistic when he said that no satisfactory solution, without some radical changes in the system, probably lies out there for resolving this issue. I would, nevertheless, urge you to sunset that and give us a chance to look at that over the summer. The reason for doing that is I think there is a need for how this whole important piece of history is playing into all the other kinds of decisions we're trying to make in school districts right now. I don't know that you can set this aside and not have it come up again, and again, and again anyway. So I think by hoping in some way if we don't sunset it it will all go away, I just don't think it is going to facilitate arriving at the very positive ends that I feel confident Senator Withem is trying to lead. He's actually had some complimentary statements from my district about how he's trying to handle this difficult issue, and that is rare for an education chairman to be complimented by anybody in the west. So I think we ought to give him a chance to solve that. I don't think we should avoid the issue because it is going to come up. I have schools in my district that are devastated by the current uncertainty of this whole nonresident situation. I have a school, Crawford, that 37 percent of its current receipts come from nonresident tuition. As Senator Withem pointed out, the notices are out in a number of schools to lay off teachers. Unless you've been out there I don't think you can appreciate the turmoil that this has thrown most of the high schools in my area into, and the devastating effect this could have upon students. I don't think that issue is going to go away simply by deciding whether to sunset or not to sunset. I think that issue is going to be around, it has to be considered in the context of all the other things that the special study this summer is going to look at, and there needs to be a considerable amount of public education and public discussion on this issue. It is terribly complex, it's been around a long time. The legal decisions keep changing, the legislation has kept changing. In order for us to arrive at some kind of reasonable compromise in this state I think that issue has to be included in those discussions. I have a